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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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SUBJECT Order of Battle - Organization, Disposition,
Strength and Materiel of Albanian Armed Forces
Along the Yugoslav and the Greek Borders

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Albanian Army consists of three infantry divisions* and two full independent brigades directly under the General Staff. The total strength of the Army is estimated at 40,000 to 45,000 men.
2. There are also the forces of the Security Corps which have military organization consisting of the Border Guard units (twelve battalions), and the three Special Pursuit Brigades. The total strength of these is about 10,000 men.
3. The Albanian Army was formed on the basis of the Partisan guerrilla army, from which almost all the officers have come. This army was reorganized in 1945 and 1946 by the Yugoslavs, and it has again been reorganized under the supervision of a Soviet Mission located in Albania. The most recent reorganization follows Soviet pattern and methods with a basis of universal compulsory service. For the most part, Soviet materiel is used.
4. As a result of the efforts of the Soviet Mission, the Albanian Army, though small, is comparatively large for a country as small as Albania. The Soviet organizers are trying by every means to give it Communist fanaticism and faith. The effort is continually made to impress on the Albanian Army that Albania is being threatened from every side.

5. A series of fortifications along the Albanian border [] which are 50X1-HUM
being constantly improved, vary from a depth of 50 to as much as 80 kilometers and increase the defensive potential of the Albanian Army. 50X1-HUM

A special effort is being made to educate the officers of the Albanian Army. In addition to the frequent additional training courses in Albania, particularly for the junior officers, there is a system of advanced training in all arms for senior officers of the Army in the Soviet Union. Security Unit (Sigurimi) senior officers also take advanced training in the Soviet Union.

An unconfirmed report states that provisions are being made to increase the Regular Army by about 30,000 men by the formation of three additional Divisions (Berat - Kavaja - Shkoder). There is sufficient equipment for the formation of three additional Divisions. If there is insufficient

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Soviet material, [] equipment which was given to Albania by Yugoslavia is available. This [] equipment was used to arm the existing three Di- 50X1-HUM visions before Soviet equipment replaced it.

8. The best analysis indicates that the Albanian Army is quite strong in fire power.
9. The whole appearance of the Albanian Army indicates that it is a new army with many shortages in uniforms and personal equipment.
10. An engineer battalion of the Shkoder Brigade has moved to the Gjorgucat region to construct fortifications.
11. Units have a sufficient number of pack-animals for their transportation requirements inside Albania.
12. No special supply units have been observed for the movement of supplies on a wider scale from the supporting areas. It is reported that in case of necessity privately owned pack-animals will be requisitioned.
13. Recently there has been a complete census of privately owned animals for purposes of future military use.
14. The Albanian Army has considerable defensive potentialities which are aided by the strong fire power of the Albanian units, the mountainous terrain, and well-designed fortification in depth.
15. There is an unconfirmed report that the Albanians, expecting the seizure of their country by a [] Yugoslav, or Allied military force, have drawn up a plan for transforming the regular Albanian Army into a guerrilla army. The preparations for this began in May 1950 with the collection of ammunition and other supplies in secret stores in the mountainous regions of Skrapari, Tomori, Mirdita, and Shkoder.

Albanian - Yugoslav Border

16. The following units are disposed near the Albanian border with Yugoslavia:
 - a. An Independent Brigade consisting of two infantry regiments and an artillery regiment
 - b. Two Independent Infantry Regiments and an artillery force (probably a battery)
 - c. An infantry regiment belonging to 8 Division
 - d. Six Border Guard battalions
 - e. Two Special Pursuit Battalions (Burrel and Shkoder) for suppressing nationalist guerrillas; the reason for their being stationed there is probably the increased guerrilla activity instigated by Tito.
17. Regular Army units are stationed as follows:
 - a. 1 Division:
 - (1) Headquarters and independent formations in Tirana
 - (2) Infantry regiment - Staff and independent formations in the Dibra area
Three battalions in the Dibra area
 - (3) 31 Infantry Regiment - Staff and independent formations in Kukes
Three battalions in Kukes

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- (4) Infantry regiment in Tirana; [redacted] this is probably held in reserve for use against Yugoslavia. 50X1-HUM

b. Artillery Regiment:

- (1) Staff and formations in Tirana
- (2) Battery of mountain artillery in the Diber area
- (3) Battery of mountain artillery or mortars in the Kukes area
- (4) Battery in Tirana

c. 26 Infantry Regiment (8 Division): Staff, independent formations, and units, all based in Pogradec

d. Independent Infantry Brigade:

- (1) Base at Shkoder
- (2) Two infantry regiments in the Shkoder region
- (3) One artillery regiment in the Shkoder region

e. Independent Infantry Regiment in the Kukes area: Battery of artillery in the Kukes area

[redacted] this regiment with 31 Infantry Regiment of 1 Division probably forms the new Independent Brigade. 50X1-HUM

f. Engineers Brigade in Shkoder: Two battalions of this brigade are in the Shkoder area.

18. Disposition of Border Guard battalions:

- a. Prenjas
- b. Librazhd
- c. Peshkopi
- d. Kukes
- e. Doutsai (sic, probably Ducaj)
- f. Shkoder

19. Tank Regiments

- a. A tank regiment is stationed at Tirana, and there is a unit of tanks at Tirana (24 armored vehicles and 24 Soviet tanks, probably SY. 76, described as light tanks to accompany infantry).
 - b. There is a unit of tanks at Kavaja of the same composition.
 - c. There is a unit of tanks being organized at Durres.
20. The special brigades for the pursuit of nationalist guerrillas are numbers 1, 2, and 3 and are based at Shkoder, Burrel, and Tepelene. Each has a strength of about 1,000 men who are Communists.
21. Since 1 Division is disposed near Yugoslavia, as are the Independent Brigades of Shkoder and probably Kukes, the reserves at the disposal of the Albanian General Staff may be considered to be the following:

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- a. Five infantry battalions of the Vlone Brigade (two regiments less one battalion forming the garrison at Saseno Island)

Total strength is about 2,500 men.

- b. A regiment of heavy artillery
c. The tank regiment
d. Three special pursuit brigades
e. [redacted]

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22. Albania is under continual pressure from Yugoslavia and is constantly expecting the invasion of strong guerrilla units from Yugoslavia. Consequently she cannot move military units from the Yugoslav sector to use elsewhere.

[redacted] Albanian Border

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23. Near the [redacted] Albanian border there are two infantry brigades (less one infantry regiment) plus four border-guard battalions, as follows:

- a. 5 Division:

- (1) Headquarters and independent formations under the command of the Division are at Gjinokaster, viz.:

Headquarters company (strength of 50 men)

Transport company - 50 vehicles of 3 to 5 tons (strength of 120 enlisted men and 8 officers)

Engineers company (two platoons of pioneers, one platoon of mine-layers and mine-sweepers, one platoon of bridge-builders; total strength of 120 men)

Communications company (two platoons of wireless operators; two platoons of telephone operators; total strength of 120 men)

Security company for the Division (three platoons of 25 men each, all carrying sub-machine guns); the company has a total strength of 85 men.

Battery of anti-tank guns (strength of 70 men, four cannon of Soviet type, 45mm., 1942)

Training units:

Center for training select scouts; strength of 50 - 60 men

Training battalion for non-commissioned officers, two rifle companies, one mortar company, one machine gun company, total strength of 400 men

Music company (strength of 40 men)

- (2) 31 Infantry Regiment: Staff and independent formations, three infantry battalions at Gjinokaster

- (3) 18 Infantry Regiment: Two infantry battalions, staff and independent formations at Delvine

One infantry battalion at Sarande

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- (4) 7 Infantry Regiment: Staff and independent formations at Pernet

Two infantry battalions at Pernet; one infantry battalion at Leskovik
- (5) 3 Regiment Mountain Artillery: Staff and independent formations at Gjinokaster

One unit of artillery at Gjinokaster

One battery of artillery at Delvine

One unit of mortars at Gjinokaster

b. 8 Division

- (1) Headquarters and independent formations under the command of the Division are at Korce. [] the independent formations are reported to be the same as those of 5 Division with approximately the same strength in each.

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- (2) 9 Infantry Regiment: Headquarters and independent formations in vicinity of Floq

Two infantry battalions in vicinity of Floq

A battalion at Erseke

- (3) 14 Infantry Regiment: Headquarters and independent formations at Korce

Two infantry battalions at Korce

One battalion at Bilishit

- (4) 26 Infantry Regiment: Based in Pogradec, and is oriented towards Yugoslavia (in the Prespes region and to the north).

- (5) 7 Artillery Regiment: Staff and independent formations at Korce

Battery of mountain artillery at Korce

Unit of mountain artillery at Korce

Battery of mortars at Bilishit

c. Location of border-guard units:

- (1) The 10 Border-Guard battalion at Sopik has a strength of 500 men and maintains the sector from Sarande to Stungara.
- (2) The 15 Border-Guard battalion at Gjorgucat has a strength of 550 men and maintains the sector from Stungara to Nemercke.
- (3) A border-guard battalion (number unknown) at Leskovik has a strength of 650 men and maintains the sector from Nemercke to Skorovot.
- (4) A border-guard battalion (number unknown) at Bilishit has a strength of 550 (?) men and maintains the sector from Skorovot to junction of Albanian - Yugoslav border.

d. Communications:

- (1) Telephone: - There is a complete communications network from Gjinokaster and Korce to the border as far as the border

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guard-posts. The chief telephone centers are Sarande, Gjinokaster, Permet and Korce. From these the telephone network is directed towards the center at Tirana on four main trunk lines.

- (2) Wireless: - Central stations have been noted at Gjinokaster and Korce and at the bases of the Divisions. All the units down to and including battalions and artillery batteries everywhere have wireless sets. The border-guard battalions also have wireless sets for direct connection with their Center (the Border-Guard Command in the Ministry of Security).

e. Transport:

- (1) Vehicles: - There are 80 to 100 vehicles for each division.
- (2) Animals: - The units are self-sufficient in pack-animals for transportation within the units. The presence of special supply units to take care of supplies and transportation on a larger scale from regions behind the front lines has not been reported.

f. Strength:

- (1) Sector from Sarande to Erseke

Three border-guard battalions:

Men: 1700 (approximately)

Weapons: 1500 Rifles

71 Light machine guns

27 Breda machine guns

12 x 82 mm. Mortars

48 Sub-machine guns

The weapons of the border-guard battalions

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One full infantry division:**

Three infantry regiments (nine battalions)

Men: 6000 (approximately)

Weapons: 5000 Rifles

600 Sub-machine guns

72 Anti-tank rifles

250 Light machine guns

91 Heavy machine guns

91 x 82 mm. Mortars

12 x 107 mm. Mortars

12 x 75 mm. Mountain cannon

12 x 40 mm. Anti-tank cannon

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Regiment of mountain artillery:

Men: 900

Weapons: 16 x 107 mm. Mortars

28 x 76.2 mm. Mountain guns

70 Sub-machine guns

Independent units of the Division:

Men: 600

Weapons: 400 Rifles

100 Sub-machine guns

18 Light machine guns

9 Heavy machine guns

9 x 82 mm. Mortars

4 x 45 mm. Anti-tank guns

Grand Total Strength of the Armed Forces in the Sector from Sarande to Erseke

Men: / 9200

Weapons: 6900 Rifles

650 Sub-machine guns

270 Light machine guns

100 Heavy machine guns

100 x 82 mm. Mortars

28 x 107 mm. Mortars

12 x 76.2 mm. Mountain artillery guns

16 Anti-tank cannon

72 Anti-tank rifles

(2) Sector from Erseke to Yugoslav border

One border-guard battalion:

Men: 550

Weapons: 500 Rifles

12 Light machine guns

(?) Breda machine guns

16 Sub-machine guns

8 Anti-tank rifles

One full infantry division (less one regiment);***

Two Infantry Regiments:

Men: 4000

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Weapons:

- 3200 Rifles
- 350 Sub-machine guns
- 12 Anti-tank rifles
- 180 Light machine guns
- 60 Heavy machine guns
- 60 x 82 mm. Mortars
- 8 x 107 mm. Mortars
- 8 x 75 mm. Cannon
- 8 Anti-tank Cannon

One regiment of mountain artillery:

Men: 900

Weapons:

- 28 Mountain guns
- 16 x 107 mm. Mortars
- 70 Sub-machine guns
- 800 Rifles

Independent units of the division:

Men: 600

Weapons:

- 400 Rifles
- 100 Sub-machine guns
- 18 Light machine guns
- 9 Heavy machine guns
- 9 x 82 mm. Mortars
- 4 x 45 mm. Anti-tank cannon

Total Strength of the Armed Forces in the Erseke to the Yugoslav Border Sector

Men: 5500

Weapons:

- 4900 Rifles
- 510 Sub-machine guns
- 12 Anti-tank rifles
- 200 Light machine guns
- 70 Heavy machine guns
- 70 x 82 mm. Mortars

- 28 x 76.2 mm. Mountain guns
- 24 x 107 mm. Mortars
- 8 x 75 mm. Guns
- 12 x 45 mm. Anti-tank guns

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[redacted]

24. Real offensive activity cannot be undertaken by 5 Division and 8 Division which are disposed [redacted] Army forces are occupied 50X1-HUM elsewhere can those divisions be used for any other purpose than defense of the border.

* [redacted] Comment: [redacted] a fourth infantry division, the 6 Division, with headquarters at Shkoder, is in 50X1-HUM the process of formation.

** [redacted]

Comment: The 5 Division

*** [redacted]

Comment: The 8 Division

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